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U. S. Department of Agriculture.

A Personal Message

FROM

ALBERT H. PERRIGO

West Chester, Pa.

Spring of 1923

**Prices and Description of Berry
Plants. Varieties that are Adapted
to Southeastern Pennsylvania, New
Jersey, Delaware and Maryland.**

If you are not personally interested in this message, please pass it on to a friend. I will appreciate the courtesy. and probably he will also.

Season of 1923

Good if not high prices were obtained during 1922 for all kinds of small fruits. I can see no reason why the same conditions will not prevail the coming year, and for many more years to come. Why not start now?

It is a pleasant and fascinating business as well as profitable. Yes, there is some hard work connected with it, but there is also the pleasure of eating your own fruit, fresh from the garden and the satisfaction of having all you want and when you want it.

Chester county has the ideal soil, climate and other requirements to grow all kinds of small fruits. There is no reason why they should not be grown and shipped in car lots at a great financial gain to the growers. Under the present conditions we do not grow enough to supply our home market. Farmers and land owners, investigate this subject and then try and get your share of this profitable business.

I have a splendid lot of strawberry plants this year; the best I ever grew. My system of growing plants from beds newly set each year, is increasing the vigor, strength and bearing qualities of my plants. Like most growers, I formerly dug plants from beds that had been fruited. Several years ago I abandoned that practice and now plow under everything after the fruit is off the vines the first year. I can see a wonderful improvement both in vigor of plants and productiveness. Have also been able to eliminate disease.

The varieties I offer have all been tested in a commercial way on my grounds and I do not offer a variety for sale until I am satisfied it is a success in this vicinity.

I am not one of the big growers, and don't want to be one. I aim to grow only as much as I can supervise personally and actually know every plant I sell is a good one.

Good plants, like good seed, is one-half the battle.

I tie, number and tag all of my plants, just as fast as they are dug. This is all done in the field and every bunch is heeled in as soon as tied. The roots are not exposed to wind and sun but a minute or so. In all my years of growing and shipping strawberry plants, I have only had to replace one shipment.

VISITORS ALWAYS WELCOME

I wish it were possible for everyone who intends to buy plants this year to come and inspect my grounds in person. I am quite proud of my efforts and invite everyone to come and be shown over the place at any time. Visitors are always welcome.

SERVICE

Service is what I aim to give as well as good plants. If you are in doubt as to any particular point do not hesitate to ask. I have helped many of my customers and I am at your service at any and all times.

VARIETIES

I am not growing every variety on the market, but restricting my plantings to the varieties that I have tried and found to be successful in this section.

TRIAL GROUNDS

I have established a trial field in which I plant every variety I have, and each year secure a few new ones. They are all planted the same day, have the same treatment as regards to cultivation and fertilization, and as accurate a record as possible made of yields. I am doing this, in the perhaps vain effort, to find the one best berry. Anyway it is mighty interesting and I trust will be of great benefit to my customers as well as myself.

WHITE GRUBS

The **White Grub** is about the most serious pest the strawberry grower has to contend with. Of late years I have plowed all my fields for the next year's planting in the fall. Usually about October 20 to November 5. I leave the ground alone until spring, and if necessary, plow again then. If the ground is very dry, all the better, as then the old roots of grass or weeds die and dry up and the grubs starve to death. Of course the birds and fowls get some but only a small portion in comparison to the number you starve to death. I have not lost a plant by grubs since I adopted this method.

HOW TO GROW STRAWBERRIES

If you intend to grow small fruits to any extent, would advise that you procure the manual, "Productive Small Fruit Culture" by Fred C. Sears, M.S. It is the most satisfactory treatise I have ever read, and I have read practically everything that has been published in this line for the past twenty-five years and have most of them in my library. I have been thinking of writing a book on the subject myself, but if I had, would have been accused of plagiarism, as practically everything he says

coincides with my ideas as practiced on my plantations.

The cost of the book is only \$2.50 and if carefully read and then fairly practiced, you can be assured of success in small fruits. He does not, like most writers on the subject, deal in generalities, but gets right down to facts that are deducible, understandable and getatable. The articles on grape trimming are especially thorough and simple. After reading them carefully a few times you will be able to trim a grape vine as it should be done. If you can't, you had better stop trying to grow grapes. This also might apply to all the other subjects. Send in your \$2.50 and know what you are doing and why. My main object in giving Prof. Sears this complimentary notice is, that I want my customers to be successful. To make a success you must know how, and Prof. Sears in his book surely does tell you how and in a way that you can understand and apply at once.

STRAWBERRIES

Gibson. I am again putting this grand, old reliable variety at the head of the list. It was far ahead of any variety last year, as usual. It out yielded most varieties and some of them two to one. It is the one variety that brings in the money. It is not a fancy variety but just a good all around berry and the one to grow for profit. I grow it and other varieties for market, in the hill system, and it does the best of all for me.

Price—100, \$1.00; 500, \$4.00; 1000, \$7.00.

Big Joe. This is a variety that does well in this and most all sections. It is a variety for anyone who wants a berry to brag about, and when you take a friend into a well tilled field of Big Joe you may well be proud of it and priviledged to brag a little.

If you have a market for fancy fruit, do not overlook the Big Joe, as it is not surpassed by any berry grown when well grown and well handled. I never had such a fine lot of plants of this variety as I have this year. Did not have near enough to supply my trade last year and it looks now as though I was going to be short again this year. Order early.

Price—100, \$1.00; 500, \$4.00; 1000, \$7.00.

Chesapeake. Here we have what is probably the one best berry for the fancy trade. Berries are large, regular in shape, glossy and attractive in every way. With high culture upon loam or clay loam this berry is simply wonderful. However, unless you can give it the proper attention and plant on the right soil, better plant Big Joe or some other variety. On the other hand if you can grow them on the right kind of soil with high culture, you are on the road to prosperity, for they will out-sell most other varieties from five to ten cents a quart. Not as good a variety for preserving as the Gibson, but a far better market berry. They sell at sight.

Price—100, \$1.50; 500, \$6.00; 1000, \$10.00.

Premier. I consider the **Premier** the money maker of early varieties and it is conceded by all growers as the earliest and best early variety. It has no weak points and does well on all types of soil. Is extremely hardy. Berries are beautiful, delicious in quality and firm enough to ship anywhere. If you have a market for early berries, plant freely of this variety. It is a few jumps ahead of any early variety I have ever tried.

Price—100, \$1.25; 500, \$5.00; 1000, \$9.00.

Bushel Basket. This new variety had a good tryout in this vicinity last year. I was the first grower to give this berry a trial in this section of the country. I had several plots under observation last year and the growers are all enthusiastic over the success of this

variety. It is the most vigorous grower and a prolific bearer of enormous berries. It is, however, somewhat tender in the spring and would advise keeping mulch on as late as possible.

Price—100, \$1.00; 500, \$4.00; 1000, \$7.00

Wm. Belt. This variety takes the lead whenever quality is the consideration. The plant is vigorous, though not a rampant grower. succeeds on most all soils, invariably yields heavily. Berries are large and of high quality. Flesh is solid and deep crimson color with abundance of pollen. It begins to ripen quite early and continues until almost the close of the season; the very last berries being large, handsome and full-flavored. Many of the berries are of great size, and gives large pickings for a longer period than almost any other variety. Ideal berry for home garden and nearby market.

Price—100, \$1.00; 500, \$4.00; 1000, \$7.00.

Lupton. One of the largest and most handsome berries I have ever seen. It is productive, uniformly large, bright red in color and very attractive. While they are not the highest quality, they will sell on the market when other berries go begging. On the large markets appearance is practically everything, therefore the **Lupton** by reason of its large size, handsome appearance, and excellent shipping qualities, is one of the best money making berries that I list. **Lupton** is often taken for Chesapeake, and while the quality is not as good, will sell equally well. It is much easier to grow and will far outyield Chesapeake. If you want to ship fancy berries and be sure of their standing up on the market, try **Lupton**.

Price—100, \$1.00; 500, \$4.00; 1000, \$7.00.

EVER-BEARING VARIETIES

Any of our ever-bearing plants set this

spring, as early as possible, will bear a crop of delicious berries this year and will commence fruiting in a few weeks after plants are set. If ground is rich and moist they can be allowed to commence fruiting about July 15th, and will fruit right up to the time winter sets in. For the home garden they will be the best investment you can make and will give the whole family great satisfaction and pleasure. I am not recommending ever-bearing strawberries as a commercial proposition as yet; possibly in time they may pay commercially. For the home garden they are too good a proposition to be overlooked.

Progressive. The most vigorous growing plant of all the fall bearing strawberries and is the only one that will do much of anything this far south. The berries are produced in great abundance and have a flavor equal to the wild strawberries you used to gather or have heard your parents praise. It is also the earliest berry in the spring and bears a very good crop then.

The berries are not quite so large as some of the others, but are produced in great quantities, and if picked often, say every three days, will stand shipment. While the Progressive is not quite so large as some, it grows better, yields more and is of better quality than any variety I have ever tried. If you like strawberries you will get a lot of pleasure and profit out of a plot of Progressives.

Price—50, \$1.00; 100, \$1.50; 500, \$7.00.

Champion. A new variety recently introduced that I have grown only one year. I find it almost identical with the Progressive, possibly sets a little more and a little larger fruit. It is a prolific bearer of very fine berries and a splendid plant maker. I have a limited number of plants and advise that you order early.

Price—1 doz., 50 cents; 100, \$2.50.

CURRENTS AND GRAPES

Anyone having a plot of ground ever so small, either in country or city, can find room for from six to twelve grape and currant vines. And how much more delicious the fruit is when it is grown and picked by your own hands.

My vines and plants this season are large; well rooted and fine in every way.

GRAPES

Plant in rows eight to ten feet apart and ten feet apart in the rows. For garden culture it is customary to plant much closer, according to the room you have. Grapes like a warm, loose, well drained soil and southern exposure. Set a few inches deeper than they were grown in the nursery. At planting time, cut back to three or four buds and allow only two or three of the strongest ones to grow. The second year these canes should be cut back to the same eyes or buds as at first. This pruning is to delay bearing and get a strong, well established plant. Allow only the two strongest canes to grow and these canes should be trained to the lower wire of the trellis. From these arms each succeeding year, canes are allowed to grow to bear the season's fruit. The following winter these old canes are cut back to two or three buds and only the strongest ones allowed to grow from each joint.

In grape trimming, bear in mind that the fruit is borne at the base of this year's shoots that come from wood formed last year. Applying this principle, you can train a grape to a stake or any other method you favor the most.

CACO

It sells itself.

It is the most beautiful of all grapes.

It is the most delicious of all grapes.

It is the strongest grower we have ever seen and is proving to be the most profitable commercial variety.

It is wine red, with abundant bloom; the berries are very large, bunches medium in size, compact and of good form. Ripens almost with Concord, possibly a few days earlier; but it is so rich in sugar it is excellent in flavor fully two weeks before being ripe. It was the only variety (out of 12) on our grounds that set and matured a full crop during the season of 1921. Not an imperfect berry and every bunch a saleable one. If you raise grapes, either commercially or for home use, you cannot afford to be without this wonderful variety. I am setting a new vineyard this season and CACO will represent one-half the planting. One other and a big feature is, that CACO is practically immune from black rot.

1 year, 50c, 1 doz. \$4.00; 2 year, 75c, 1 doz. \$6.00.

CONCORD

The great American grape. Succeeds everywhere; known by everybody and needs no recommendation.

1 year, 25c, 1 doz. \$2.50; 100, \$15.00

NIAGARA

The popular white grape. Cluster large and compact; berry large, thin skinned, tender pulp, sweet and luscious. Ripens with Concord.

1 year, 25c, 1 doz. \$2.50; 2 year, 35c, 1 doz. \$3.50.

DIAMOND

A reliable white grape. Bunch large, berry large, greenish white, juicy and of splendid quality. Everyone should have at least one vine of this variety.

CAMPBELL'S EARLY

A superb black grape; berries large; covered with rich bloom; quality about the same as Concord; vine a strong, healthy grower and a good bearer. Profitable for market on account of its earliness.

IDEAL

Is the sweetest of all black grapes. The clusters are invariably very compact and fair size. Vine healthy and prolific. So far have found it hard to propagate and my supply of vines is therefore limited.

1 year, 50c, 1 doz. \$3.50.

CURRENTS

The currant requires a moist, rich soil to be able to do its best. In this locality it should be planted on a north slope and partial shade is a great help. Put a couple of forksful of good stable manure around each plant in the fall. Old leaves to the depth of a foot over the field will be a big help. This can be supplanted in the spring by a commercial fertilizer of about 6-8-10. Wood ashes are also good. Plant in rows six to seven feet apart and four feet apart in the rows for commercial planting. For gardens four feet each way is about right. The currant is growing in popularity fast. More of this fruit is being used each year and it is well that it is, for the currant has, probably, more health giving qualities than any fruit grown. No family should be without a

few plants and as a commercial proposition they are well up toward the head of the list!

BOSKOOP GIANT

By far the largest and best of the black varieties. The fruit is very large, often more than an inch in diameter. Is a strong grower and bears a good crop every year.

2 year, 35c. 1 doz. \$4.00.

EVERYBODY'S

Named Everybody's because everybody can grow it with success. Bunch and berry of large size; color bright sparkling red and of excellent quality. It is a big yielder and the currant to grow for market, and is equally good for the home garden.

1 year, 25c, 1 doz. \$2.50; 100, \$15.00.

2 year, 35c, 1 doz. \$3.50.

PRESIDENT WILDER

A strong and very upright growing variety that produces big crops of brilliant red and extra large fruit. I have fruited this currant for several years and find it the most satisfactory variety. A grand commercial currant.

1 year, 25c, 1 doz. \$2.50, 100, \$15.00.

2 year, 35c, 1 doz. \$3.25, 100, \$20.00.

DIPLOMA

Probably the largest and best flavored red currant so far introduced. Ripens in mid-summer, but if not picked will hang on the bushes for weeks in good condition. A grand currant for the home garden and a profitable commercial variety, for the reason that it can be marketed long after all others are gone. It was the only variety on our grounds that withstood the late spring freeze in 1921, and bore a partial crop when all others failed. It also

brings a better price on the market for it sells at sight and is soon sold while others wait.

1 year, 25c, 1 doz. \$2.50, 100, \$15.00.

2 year, 35c, 1 doz. \$3.50.

RASPBERRIES AND BLACKBERRIES

I am about to abandon the growing of blackberry and raspberry plants. My entire acreage will be devoted to strawberries, grapes and currants. I am therefore offering the plants I have left at a very low price. If you can use any of the varieties, now is the time to get busy and get in your order.

BLACK RASPBERRIES

Honey Sweet. A remarkable grower and wonderful producer.

Price—1 doz., 75c; 2 doz., \$1.00; 100, \$2.50.

Plum Farmer. Standard variety.

Price—1 doz., 50c; 100, \$2.00.

RED RASPBERRIES

Victory. A grand variety and one that does not winter kill in this latitude.

Price—Transplanted plants—doz., \$1.00; 100, \$5.00. Sucker plants—doz., 75c; 100, \$3.00.

BLACKBERRIES

Joy. Big, hardy, reliable and productive.

Star. The variety I have grown exclusively for fruit for the past nine years, and profitably so. Ripens after all others are gone.

Price of either variety—doz., 50c; 100, \$2.00.

ORDER BY PARCEL POST, C. O. D.

I advise that customers have their parcel post packages sent C. O. D. for the amount of the postage. This not only fixes matters so that you pay just the actual postage, but it practi-

cally insures your package from loss in the mails, because your postmaster cannot collect the postage unless he delivers the package.

The cost is 10 cents for the C. O. D. and 3 cents for returning the money to us. It is a safe thing to do as hundreds of packages are lost from the mails every year.

If our patrons are short of money when they send in their orders, they can send one-fourth of the total amount with the order and we will send plants C. O. D. for the balance and cost of postage.

IMPORTANT

We all make mistakes. Especially during the rush of a busy shipping season. If anything is wrong about your order, write fairly and decently about it and we will see that it is adjusted. We do not agree to replace plants that die unless it can be proven we are at fault.

DO NOT REFUSE A SHIPMENT, but take it and **DO** the very best you can. Then let us know all about it and we will do everything in our power to make things right.

Satisfied customers are the only kind we want and are the only kind worth having.

PRICES

Our prices are as reasonable as one should expect and at the same time get good plants, properly grown, well dug and shipped promptly.

In no article of merchandise does quality count more than in plants. The first cost, even though many times higher than we quote, is trifling compared to the labor and expense put upon them afterwards. Good plants cannot be sold below a certain rate. Our prices are based upon cost of production and not on the price the other fellow charges.

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Department of Agriculture

Bureau of Plant Industry

NURSERY CERTIFICATE No. 40—Resident

This is to certify that the Nursery Premises of Albert H. Perrigo, R. D., West Chester, Chester County, Pa., have been officially inspected and passed in accordance with the provisions of an Act of Legislature, approved the 29th day of June, 1917, and as amended and approved April 26, 1921.

Permission is hereby granted this nursery to sell and ship nursery stock which has been officially inspected, for the year ending September 30, 1923; provided that a tag on which a copy of this certificate is printed must be attached to each package, bundle, bale, box or carload lot so shipped.

This certificate is void after October 1, 1923, but may be revoked for cause. Issued at the State Capitol, Harrisburg, Pa., September 8, 1922.

J. G. Sanders, Director

\$700.00 **NET
PROFIT**

From One Acre in A Year

This amount can be realized by most anyone and especially if they will plant **GIBSON**. I have done much better than \$700.00 from an acre with **GIBSON**.

The berries are large and of beautiful dark red color and extra fine appearance. Gibson plants out-yield other varieties and Gibson berries outsell other berries on the market. That is certainly recommendation enough, but we want to add that the Gibson is also an extra nice table or home use strawberry. The plants are strong growers, long rooted and probably the most thrifty and healthy looking variety on my farm. Gibson commences to ripen with the second earlies and continues for a long season, making a heavy yield of fruit.

This catalog is my only salesman. I do not, by any means, claim to have the cheapest plants that can be bought, but I do know that I can save you money. You cannot afford to buy plants that have only cheapness to recommend them. The crop of berries you harvest will determine the value of the plants you set.